

# EAST COAST NEWS

CARING,  
VIBRANT,  
GREEN

## Planting A Greener East

MCI (P) 084/10/2020

PUBLISHED BY EAST COAST TOWN COUNCIL

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around our town



# GREENING UP THE EAST COAST

Conversation with Jessica Tan  
MP for East Coast GRC  
Chairman of East Coast Town Council

In a recent instalment of the East Coast Conversations series, our MPs announced the new East Coast Sustainability and Greenery Plan. This three-pronged initiative will not only create more green spaces and help preserve the unique biodiversity in East Coast, but also provide platforms for residents to play an active role in environmental efforts.

We speak with MP Jessica Tan to find out more:

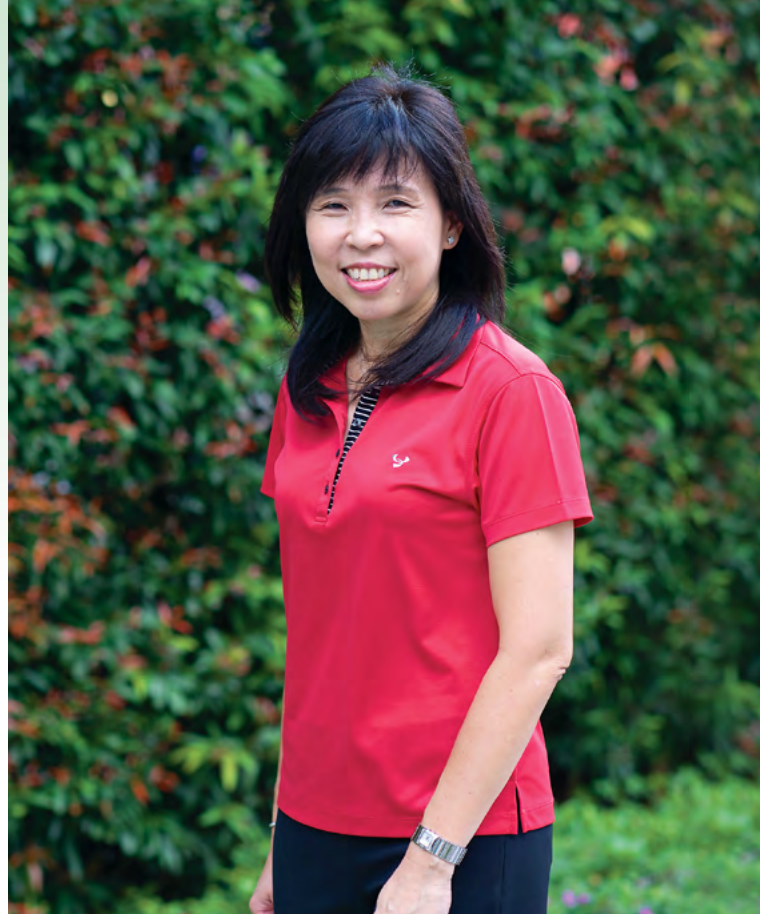
## Why is “Green” a key focus of the East Coast Plan?

“Green” is important, not only to East Coast. Climate change and global warming affect every one of us, and what we do contributes to it. Trash is building up, and Semakau Landfill is going to be filled by 2035 — that’s not too far away. If we don’t do something now, it will affect everyone.

When it comes to the East Coast Plan, “Green” is one of the three pillars, and it’s a very important part. The reason we focus on it is not just to make the place green and pretty. It is to improve the liveability of our environment, which affects all residents.

## Why is it important to East Coast?

East Coast is special. We have quite a bit of biodiversity here. From Pulau Ubin to Changi Beach, even within the housing estates there are lots of green spaces. For example, although we do not have beaches in Simei, there are many lovely species of birds. Our residents sometimes send me pictures of them and it is a reminder that trees are important for the birds.



There are many creatures unique to Singapore, including plants, fish, and crabs at our beaches and mangrove swamps. Even sea turtles visit our shores. We need to preserve these spaces because if our environment gets too polluted or warm, some of these will be destroyed. Beyond that, it will affect the living conditions of our residents as well.

## What are some ongoing green initiatives in East Coast?

One thing we have already been doing is greening the estate. You have probably heard about the Central Green and Community corridors, covering 15km from East Coast Park to Changi Beach. We want to connect the whole East Coast and integrate our urban areas with nature, so that green spaces are easily accessible for residents to enjoy.

The other is giving people spaces to be involved, such as community and therapeutic gardens. We now have about 130 community gardens in East Coast GRC.

Even at the Town Council level, we’ve been actively reducing our energy consumption. For example, we have replaced all lights in East Coast public estates with LED lights. This has reduced our energy consumption for 2019 by 30% when compared to 2013.

We are also collaborating with the Housing Development Board (HDB) on the Solar Nova Programme to install solar panels on HDB blocks across East Coast. This programme covers the entire Singapore, generating about 420 GWh of solar energy annually — approximately 5% of our country’s total energy consumption.

Each of us needs to do our part for our “green plan” to succeed.

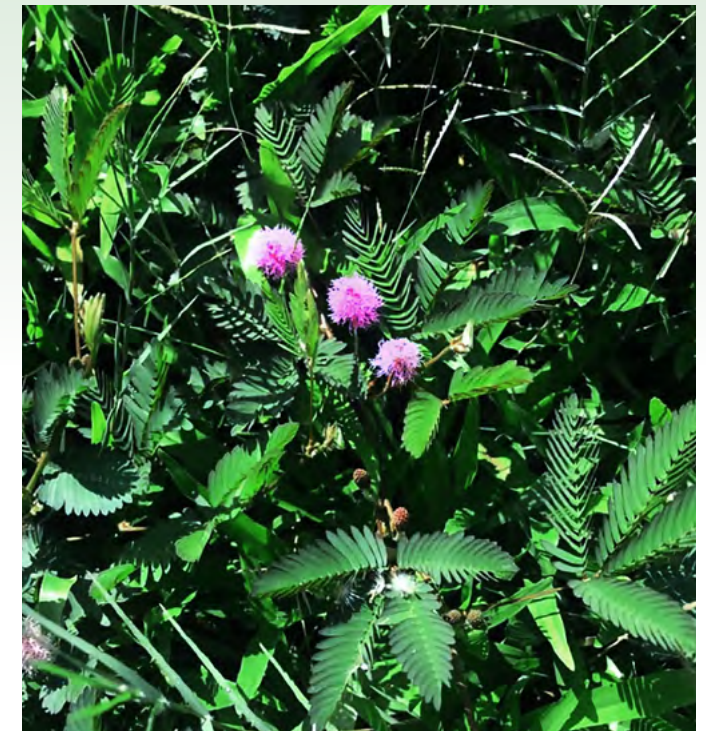
## What are some upcoming initiatives residents can look out for?

Our plan has three prongs. The first is Greening the Estate, the second is building a Community in Nature, and the third is our Sustainability Roadmap.

We are continuing to create more green spaces for residents to get involved in greening and planting. There is also the corridor gardening initiative. It is good that there is keen interest from residents to grow their own edibles and the National Parks Board (NParks) is providing seeds for corridor planting. We do need to remind residents that corridor planting must be done responsibly and that corridor space should not be blocked.

For Community in Nature, this ties back to the biodiversity in East Coast. We are a community in nature, even if many of us don’t realise it. We want to make people aware, and get them involved in helping to preserve our forests and mangroves, as well as the plant, animal and wildlife species that live there. We have some upcoming programmes like Habitat Enhancement and Intertidal Watch — all NParks programmes where residents will be trained to take on an active role in restoring our natural ecosystem and creating a conducive environment for wildlife to exist.

For the Sustainability Roadmap, we want to involve all residents in a ground-up approach. From our East Coast Conversations, we have had residents say they want to do something but may not have the know-how. The idea of ‘Green Ambassadors’ was suggested during one of our East Coast Conversations, so we are recruiting a team of residents to help



“Touch-Me-Nots” from Jessica Tan’s Facebook Page

drive awareness and to build know-how. This concept is still evolving, but it is a start, to give them the support they need and to get people involved. This emphasis on partnership with the community is important because it makes greening efforts more sustainable in the long run.

## On a more personal level, what does being sustainable and “Green” mean to you?

I think trying to live sustainably is important, but it’s not always easy. Especially when it comes to being conscious about our habits, like avoiding single-use cutlery, bottles, or cups. For example, I hardly take bottled water now, and if I do, I look for the recyclable ones. It’s a small effort.

In terms of “Green”, I do enjoy nature. During the circuit breaker, I took pictures while out on a walk and I was asked why I was taking pictures of the grass. Actually, I was taking photos of the Touch-Me-Nots (or mimosas), and the Love Grass. When I asked around, I realised many don’t know these plants. My grandmother had green fingers, so I grew up with her doing gardening and enjoying her lovely garden. I guess that’s why I enjoy nature as it brings back fond memories for me.



In his youth, Mr Peter Sequeira was a member of his school's horticultural club. Since then, he developed a love for gardening and wished to have a garden of his own. However, he only fulfilled that wish in 2013 when he was in his mid-60s.

Upon joining his nearby Residents' Committee to do volunteer work, he had the opportunity to take over the Fengshan Topaz Educational Community Garden as its Garden Manager — a post-retirement role he enjoys thoroughly.

Almost every morning, he starts his day tending to the garden with his fellow volunteers. They grow a wide variety of plants and trees including moringa, mulberry, jackfruit, neem, and even a young durian tree.

"This is also an educational garden where children come to learn about different plants and flowers. We even have a space for the kindergarteners to come and plant with their teacher," says the 73-year-old.

Seniors from the nearby ElderCare Centre also visit sometimes. "They enjoy seeing some of the rare old flowers they haven't seen in ages, and they have all kinds of stories to tell," describes Mr Sequeira. These flowers include the Bleeding Heart, Four O'Clock Flower, and Allamanda, he adds.



## Planting a GARDEN to NURTURE a COMMUNITY

The garden has won Platinum status at the Community in Bloom Awards by the National Parks Board six years and running, and bagged a Diamond award earlier this year. It is an achievement Mr Sequeira is particularly proud of, and hopes will encourage more people to join community gardens.

He says: "Gardening is not just about luck. The idea of green fingers is simply not true. It's about how well you take care of the plants, and that involves a lot of extra work as well as passion. There's no magic involved."

One of these residents is Mr Chin Kock Foon, who joined the initiative when it first launched in early 2018. His plot is in the fruits and vegetables section, and over the years he has grown edibles like kalia, lettuce, spinach, brinjal, and okra.

"My wife and I actually grow a lot of ornamental plants in front of our HDB apartment. For us, it's a form of relaxation to destress from our normal routine. But when the community garden opened up, we decided to try planting vegetables. Gardening is fun because you can grow many different things," he says.

His fellow gardener Mr Ahmad Atan, chose a plot in the flower section instead. He particularly enjoys growing frangipani of different colours, as the bright hues put a smile on his face.

He joined the community garden a year ago, after passing by it regularly on his jogging route. He says: "When I lived in a *kampung*, I planted a mango tree that grew to bear fruit. But when we moved to flats, I didn't have time and space to continue this passion. I'm very happy for the opportunity to do it now."

For Mr Chin, he hopes more people will start gardening in Singapore, especially because it is a great way for older folks to stay active. "Our group of gardeners are all in our 50s and 60s. Some say when they do chores they can't even squat anymore. But when gardening, they forget about the pain they have and just enjoy themselves," he says.

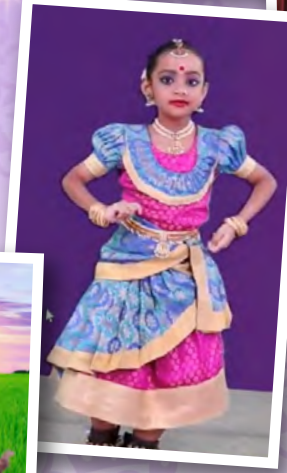
## WEAVING DIFFERENT PLOTS TOGETHER



In Changi Simei RC Zone 4, the community garden is neatly divided into a fruits and vegetables section, and an ornamental flowers section. Residents of the zone are able to rent plots of land at \$5 for every three months.

## Celebrating Deepavali

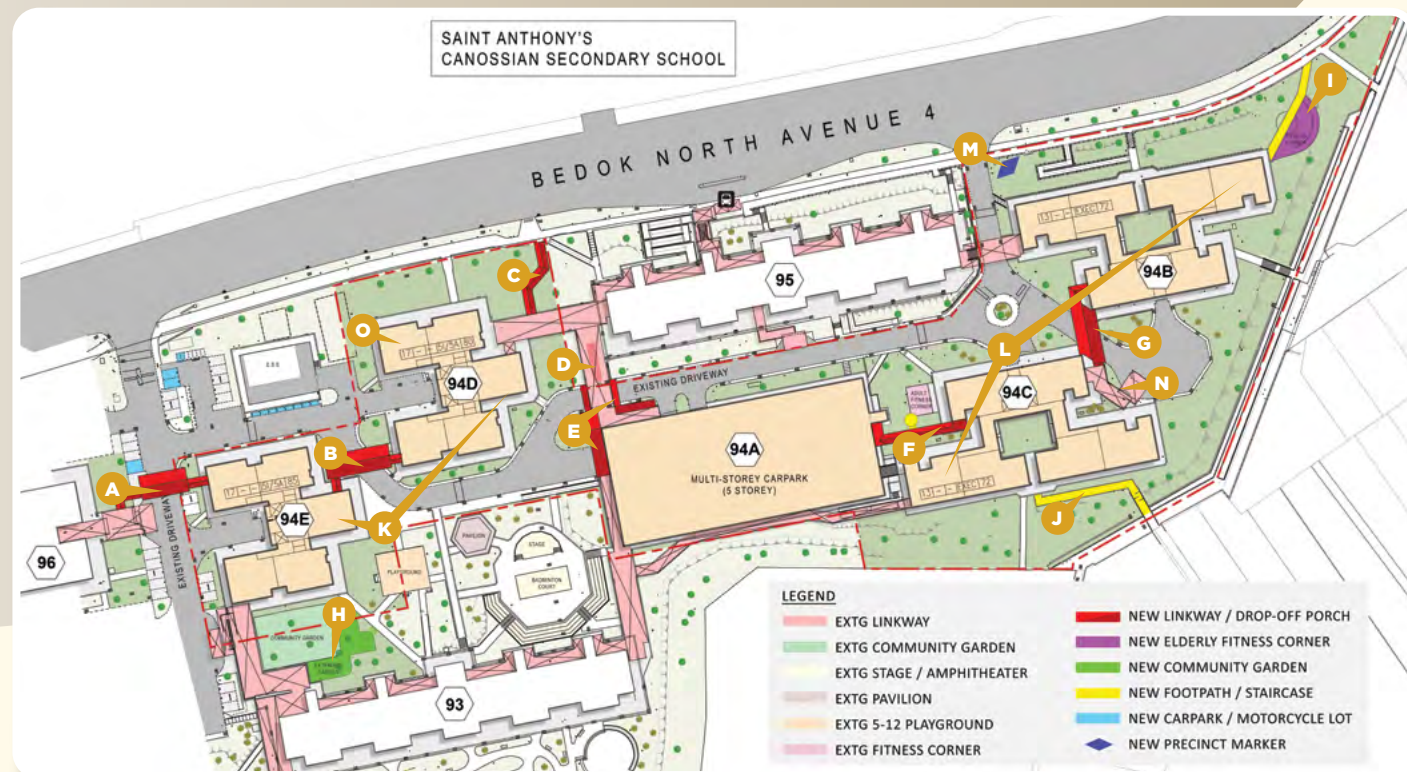
தீபாவளி  
கொண்டாட்டம்





# FENGSHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Blocks 94A (MSCP), 94B to 94E  
Bedok North Avenue 4



## What is the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP)?

A programme to upgrade the quality of older HDB estates to bring them closer to standards of the latest HDB developments, and cater to future needs of residents. It is implemented by the Town Council, and builds better connectivity between blocks and amenities to encourage healthier communities.

A consensus gathering exercise is conducted to engage residents and secure support, while the full cost of NRP is borne by the government.



# UPGRADES IN THE EAST COAST

As part of the Community Improvement Projects Committee (CIPC), the Town Council has recently upgraded these facilities with input from residents. We hope they improve your daily lives, whether by encouraging a healthier lifestyle or by giving children more places to play.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any additional feedback or suggestions.



Upgrading of Playground and Elderly Fitness Corner at Blk 128 Simei Street 1



Upgrading of Fitness Corner at Blk 126 Simei Street 1



Demolition of Pavilion and Upgrading Existing Playground into Integrated Playground between Blk 115 Bedok North Road and Fengshan CC



Upgrading of Public Toilets at 85 Fengshan Centre (Family, Female, and Male Toilets)



Reconstruction of Jogging Track at Neighbourhood Park near Blk 15 Bedok South Road



Upgrading of Playground at Blk 53 New Upper Changi Road



Upgrading of Playground at Blk 67 Bedok South Avenue 3

**KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR NEW FACILITIES AROUND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!**



# DOING OUR PART FOR ONE MILLION TREES



From left to right: MP Jessica Tan, MOS Tan Kiat How, DPM Heng Swee Keat, MP Cheryl Chan, and Minister Maliki Osman

Every year, tree planting exercises are conducted as part of the East Coast Green Initiative. Newly planted trees also contribute to the One Million Trees Movement which aims to have one million trees planted in Singapore over the next 10 years. The initiative will help restore nature and greenery to our urban city.

Planting these trees not only beautifies our environment, but also helps remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, prevent soil erosion, and lower ambient temperatures by providing shade.



THANKS TO ALL RESIDENTS WHO WORKED WITH OUR EAST COAST GRC MPs TO PLANT THE TREES!



## KEEPING RESIDENTS SAFE FROM PESTS

Pigeons are not native to Singapore and are considered an invasive species. Not only do their droppings dirty the environment, they also pose a health risk as humans could contract diseases through contact with droppings from diseased birds or carcasses.

That is why pigeon feeding is not allowed in Singapore, and feeders can be fined up to \$10,000. Not to mention, leftover food from feeding pigeons can attract pests like rats, which are also potential disease carriers.

In a recent effort to keep residents safe from such health risks, the Town Council went the extra mile to stop the errant pigeon feeders at Changi Village Hawker Centre. These unknown culprits had been feeding pigeons in the wee hours of the morning, after the daily block washing between 2am and 3am. So by the time stalls opened, the hawker centre would be dirty again with leftover food and pigeon droppings.

To catch the culprits, checks were done around 4am every day until the individuals were caught, and fines enforced.



The Town Council would also like to remind residents to return their trays after eating, to avoid indirectly feeding pigeons.



**Do not feed me.**

Jangan beri saya makan.

请勿喂食。

எனக்குத் தீனி போடாதீர்.

**Pigeons droppings dirty the environment.**

Najis burung merpati mencemari persekitaran.

野鸽的粪便污染环境。

மாடப்புறாக்களின் எச்சம் சுற்றுச்சூழலை அழுக்குப்படுத்தும்.

**You may be fined up to \$10,000 for feeding pigeons.**

Anda akan didenda sehingga \$10,000 jika didapati memberi makan kepada burung merpati.

喂野鸽，最高可被罚款10,000元。

நீங்கள் மாடப்புறாக்களுக்குத் தீனி போட்டால் \$10,000 வரையிலான அபராதம் விதிக்கப்படலாம்.

**Human food can make pigeons sick. Regular feeding makes them dependent on humans, and destroy their natural ability to forage.**

Burung merpati yang memakan makanan manusia, boleh jatuh sakit. Makanan kita adalah tidak sihat dan tidak sesuai untuk pemakanan burung tersebut. Pemberian makan secara beretusan boleh menyebabkan ia sentiasa bergantung kepada manusia. Ini akan memusnahkan keupayaan semulajadinya untuk mencari makan sendiri.

喂野鸽容易导致它们生病。这是因为人类的食物不符合鸽子的营养需求。此外饲喂野鸽可造成鸽子对人类产生依赖并破坏它觅食的本能。

மனிதரின் உணவை உண்ணும் மாடப்புறாக்கள் நோய்களுக்கு உட்படலாம். நாம் உண்ணும் உணவு மாடப்புறாக்களுக்குப் பொருத்தமானவை அல்ல. நாம் அவற்றுக்குத் தொடர்ந்து தீனி போட்டுவந்தால், அவை நம்மைச் சார்ந்திருந்து, இயற்கையாக உணவு தேடும் திறனை இழந்துவிடும்.



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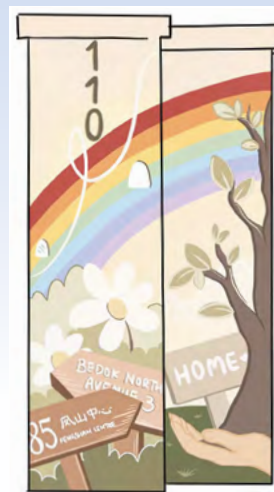




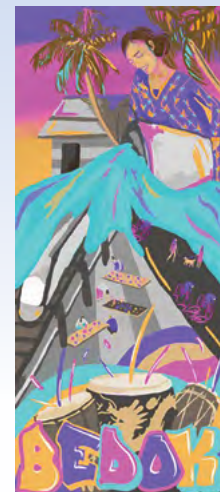


# FENGSHAN HDB WALL MURAL CONTEST SUBMISSIONS

Last issue, we called for residents to send in their wall mural designs for Blocks 110 and 109 on Bedok North Avenue 3. These are some of the creative suggestions we received! Thank you for participating!



Submitted by: Tan Wee Min Sheryl



Submitted by: Kellynn Cheah



Submitted by: Jessica Wong Yong Thing



STAY TUNED FOR THE FINAL RESULTS!



Submitted by: Miqdad Poonawala



Submitted by: Nadia Sharon Binte Moh Omar



Submitted by: Qaizer Poonawala



# GET INVOLVED IN RECYCLING EFFORTS

Did you know that on the last weekend of every even month, there are recycling initiatives in East Coast GRC? What happens is that collection points are set up around the town, for residents to easily and conveniently drop off their recyclables. This includes items such as old clothes, metal cans, and paper.

During the most recent round of collections in December, the focus was to collect electronic waste (or e-waste) such as laptops, mobile phones, irons, microwaves, and hair dryers.

With these initiatives, we hope to help residents reduce their waste footprint, and declutter their home at the same time!

Visit [www.facebook.com/OurEastCoastBuzz](https://www.facebook.com/OurEastCoastBuzz) to stay updated on our recycling initiatives, or check with your respective CCs!



EXAMPLES OF RECYCLABLES

## 2021 RC & RN RECYCLING SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS	ORGANISED BY
<b>BEDOK</b>				
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	17 Jan, 21 Feb, 21 Mar	10:30am - 12pm	Blk 37 Bedok South Ave 2 #01-445	Bedok Bunga Merah RC
Every last Sunday	31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar	9am - 11am	Blk 10C Bedok South Ave 2 #01-562	Bedok Orchid RC
<b>CHANGI SIMEI</b>				
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar	2pm - 5pm	Blk 155 Simei Road #01-202	Changi Simei Zone 3 RC
<b>KG CHAI CHEE</b>				
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar	10am - 12pm	Blk 221A Bedok Central #01-70	Kg Chai Chee Linear Green RN
Every last Sunday	31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar	11am - 11:30am	Blk 765 Bedok Reservoir View	Kg Chai Chee Longvale RN
<b>SIGLAP</b>				
Every last Sunday	31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Blk 71 Bedok South Rd #01-250	Siglap Lucky Valley RC
Every last Sunday	31 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar	8:30am - 10am	Blk 51 New Upper Changi Rd #01-1500	Siglap Ixora RC
<b>FENGSHAN</b>				
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10 Jan, 14 Feb, 14 Mar	8:30am - 12pm	Blk 111 Bedok North Rd #01-323/325	Fengshan Pine RN
Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	3 Jan, 7 Feb, 7 Mar	8:30am - 10am	Blk 124 Bedok North Rd #01-155	Fengshan Aspen RN
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10 Jan, 14 Feb, 14 Mar	10am - 12pm	Blk 93 Bedok North St 4 #01-1461	Fengshan Cedar RN
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10 Jan, 14 Feb, 14 Mar	9am - 12pm	Void Deck at Blk 185 Bedok North Rd Void Deck at Blk 79 Bedok North Rd	Fengshan Mulberry RN

Do note that the schedule might be affected by the COVID-19 situation. Please check with the respective CCs directly for updates.



## MEET-THE-PEOPLE SESSIONS



## Bedok

**Mr Heng Swee Keat**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies  
Minister for Finance  
Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC

MPS : Every Monday at 7:30pm  
(except public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 30 New Upper Changi Road  
#01-784 S(461030)

Tel : 6442 1955  
Fax : 6442 9210  
Email : Bedok@pap.org.sg



## Changi Simei

**Ms Jessica Tan Soon Neo**  
Deputy Speaker of Parliament  
Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC  
Chairman of East Coast Town Council

MPS : Every Monday at 8pm, registration starts at  
7:30pm (except public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 131 Simei Street 1 #01-208 S(520131)

Tel : 9061 4156  
Weekdays 1pm - 5pm  
(except public holidays)  
For urgent matters only.  
Email : my.mp@changisimei.sg



## Fengshan

**Ms Cheryl Chan Wei Ling**  
Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC  
Vice-Chairman of East Coast Town Council

MPS : Every Monday at 8pm (except public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 119 Bedok North Road  
#01-209 S(460119)

Tel : 8752 8867  
(Branch Secretary)  
For urgent matters only.  
10am - 5pm daily  
Email : Fengshan@pap.org.sg



## Kampong Chai Chee

**Mr Tan Kiat How**  
Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office &  
Ministry of National Development  
Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC  
Vice Chairman of East Coast Town Council

MPS : Every Monday at 7:30pm  
(except public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 408 Bedok North Avenue 2  
#01-38 S(460408)

Tel : 6448 6514  
Fax : 6241 9935  
Whatsapp only : 8355 6189  
Email : Kg.Chai.Chee.mps@pap.org.sg



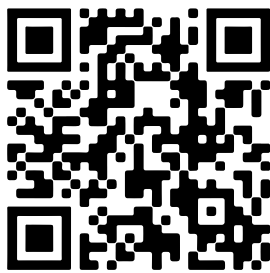
## Siglap

**Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman**  
Minister, Prime Minister's Office  
Second Minister for Education & Foreign Affairs  
Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC

MPS : Every Monday at 8pm  
(except eve of PH/public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 70 Bedok South Road #01-278 S(460070)

MPS : Last Friday of the Month at 8pm  
(except eve of PH/public holidays)  
Venue : Blk 3 Changi Village Road  
(Facing Changi Ferry Terminal)

Tel : 6241 5840  
Fax : 6243 9293  
Email : Siglap@pap.org.sg



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• Mr Omer Farook (Siglap)

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• Mr Ryan Poon



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www.ectc.org.sg



## What does the Town Council do?

The Town Council is responsible for managing the common properties of Housing Development Board (HDB) residential flats and commercial properties within the town. Common properties include facilities in the HDB housing estates built for common use by residents, such as linkways, gardens, lifts, corridors, and void decks.

**1 The Town Council is responsible for maintaining the common properties of HDB residential flats and commercial properties in HDB estates.**

☐ True ☐ False

**2 The Town Council provides the following services:**

- Cleanliness of Common Areas such as Corridors and Void Decks
- Maintenance of Mechanical and Electrical Installations such as lighting and lifts
- Implementation of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) for HDB flats

☐ True ☐ False

**3 The Town Council provides free bulky items removal service for up to three items a month.**

☐ True ☐ False

YOU MAY ALSO  
FILL IN OUR QUIZ  
ONLINE



Name: .....

NRIC: .....  
(Last 3 numerical digits and letter, eg. SXXXX123A)

Address: .....

Postal Code: .....

Email: .....  
(By providing the email address, you agree to receive updates from us.)

## RULES &amp; REGULATIONS

1. Fill in your personal details, cut out the quiz and mail it to: Quiz for Issue #127, East Coast Town Council, Block 206 Bedok North Street 1, #01-353, Singapore 460206
2. Closing date is 10 February 2021.
3. Only HDB residents of East Coast GRC are eligible to participate.
4. Winners will be notified by post.
5. 10 lucky winners will be selected from all survey entries.
6. Only 1 entry per household will be accepted.

Congratulations!

WINNERS\* OF QUIZ #126

S/N	Name
1	Abhiinandan
2	William Mok Chan Mun
3	Mohd Bismillah
4	Siau Sing Ying
5	Mathiaz Kumarasamy
6	Ervin Ong Tze Seng
7	Ann Chen Yang Choon
8	Nicholas Wong Wing Yew
9	Yeo Hong Liang
10	Jasper Sng Hai Guan

\*Winners have been notified by post

Visit our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/EastCoastTC/](https://www.facebook.com/EastCoastTC/)





# NEED HELP DISPOSING BULKY ITEMS?

With the New Year come and gone, and Chinese New Year on the way, it is the season for spring cleaning once again!

To help its residents, the Town Council is offering a free bulky items disposal service for large household items such as sofas, mattresses and dining tables. This is limited to a maximum of three items per visit, and one visit per month. Additional items are chargeable at \$5 per piece.

This service does not apply to commercial properties, home renovations, house-moving,

and removal of built-in furniture — please contact professionals for those services.

Smaller items such as newspapers, boxes, and clothing are also not included in this service, but you may instead dispose of them at the appropriate recycling collection points listed here: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/waste-management/3r-programmes-and-resources/recycling-collection-points>

**Call the East Coast Town Council at 6444 9549  
for our FREE bulky items disposal service**



**Let us do our part to keep common areas obstruction-free!**